

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated May 9, 2006. Applicants have filed herewith, a Request for Continued Examination for the Examiner's consideration of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

The Office Action indicated that Claims 1-12, 24 and 37-52 stand allowed while Claims 13-23 and 25-36 stand rejected. For the reasons provided below, Applicants have cancelled all of the rejected Claims in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.113(c) without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 13-16, 19, 21-23, 25-29, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0151349 A1 to Joshi ("Joshi"), stating that it "is thus inherent that the symbols of the different interface [of Joshi] correspond to each other." Applicants respectfully disagree with such rejection for the reasons provided below. Nonetheless, Applicants have cancelled such rejected Claims without prejudice or disclaimer to advance the prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the patentability of the subject matter of such Claims through one or more continuation patent applications.

All of such rejected Claims include the following set of elements: "wherein the symbols in each interface perform an identical function in the primary game with respect to corresponding symbols in the other interfaces, and wherein a plurality of the corresponding symbols in the interfaces are visually different from one another." The only corresponding symbols Applicants see in Joshi are the three symbols identified in Applicants' February 15, 2006 Response to Office Action, and these three symbols are identical. For this and other reasons, Applicants respectfully disagree with such rejection, though Applicants have cancelled the rejected Claims to advance the prosecution of this application.

The Office Action rejected Claims 17, 18, 20 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Joshi in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No.

2003/0027619 A1 to Nicastro ("Nicastro"). Applicants respectfully disagree with such rejection for the reasons provided below. Nonetheless, Applicants have cancelled such rejected Claims without prejudice or disclaimer to advance the prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the patentability of the subject matter of such Claims through one or more continuation patent applications.

The Office Action states that Nicastro teaches "bonus triggers specific to the different interfaces." Nicastro discloses basic game screens, transition screens, bonus game screens and end game screens. Based on Applicants' review, Nicastro does not disclose bonus triggers in a basic game which are specific to different bonus game screens. For this and other reasons, Applicants respectfully disagree with such rejection, though Applicants have cancelled the rejected Claims to advance the prosecution of this application.

The Office Action rejected Claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Joshi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,143 A to Schneier, et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with such rejection based, in part, on the reasons provided above with respect to Joshi.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions related to this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 9, 2006